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A method comprising: 1 providing Internet services to a customer through a service provider on behalf of a retail vendor; providing said services through graphical user interfaces provided by said service provider that include content related to products or services of said retail 7 vendor; preventing the customer from accessing said 8 Internet services from said service provider without 9 receiving said content related to products or services of 10 said retail vendork 11 receiving information about the customer's 12 preferences; and 13 customizing the content provided to the customer 14 based on said information. 15 The method of claim 1 further including obtaining 1 2. the identity of the customer and customizing the content 2 provided to the customer based on the customer's identity.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein providing said services includes controlling the initial graphical user interface displayed after booting of the system.

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- 4. The method of claim 3 including providing confidential information to said service provider instead of said retail vendor.
- 5. The method of claim 3 including providing the customer with a predefined set of selections.
- 6. The method of claim 1 including enabling said service provider to provide remote maintenance for said processor-based system and to control the software and hardware added to said system.
- 7. The method of claim 1 further including providing advertising based on the customer's preferences.
 - 8. The method of claim 1 including receiving information about the customer's preferences on said processor-based system coupled to said service provider over the Internet, forwarding said customer preferences to said service provider, causing said service provider to customize the content to be provided to the customer based on said information and forwarding said customized content to said processor-based system.
 - 9. The method of claim 1 including automatically directing said customer to a server associated with said

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3	retail vendor when said customer wishes to obtain a product
4	or service offered by said retail vendor.
1	10. The method ϕ f claim 1 including requiring the
2	customer to view at deast two graphical user interfaces
3	including advertising related to said retail vendor before
4	accessing said Internet services.
1	11. An article comprising a medium storing
2	instructions that enable a processor-based system to:
3 ،	provide Internet services to a customer through a
4	service provider ϕ n behalf of a retail vendor;
5	provide said services through graphical user
6	interfaces provided by said service provider that include
7	content related to products or services of said retail
8	vendor;
9	prevent the customer from accessing said Internet
10	services from said service provider without receiving said
11	content related to products or services of said retail
12	vendor;
13	receive information about a customer's
14	preferences; and
15	customize the content provided to the customer
16	based on said information.

- 1 12. The article of claim 11 further storing
 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
 3 obtain the identity of the customer and customize the
 4 information provided to the customer based on the
 5 customer's identity.
 - 13. The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to control the first and the second graphical user interfaces displayed after booting of said system.
 - 14. The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to provide confidential information to said service provider instead of said retail vendor.
 - 15. The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to provide the customer with a predefined set of selections.
 - 16. The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to enable said service provider to provide remote maintenance for said processor-based system and to control the software and hardware added to said system.

- 1 17. The article of claim 11 further storing
 2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to
 3 provide advertising to said customer based on the
 4 customer's preferences.
 - 18. The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable said processor-based system to receive said customer's preferences, forward said customer preferences over the Internet to said service provider, and receive customized content from said service provider over the Internet.
 - 19. The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to include automatically directing said customer to a server associated with said retail vendor when said customer wishes to obtain a product or service offered by said retail vendor.
 - 20. The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable a processor-based system to require the customer to view at least two graphical user interfaces including advertising related to said retail vendor before accessing said Internet services.

21. A system comprising: a processor; and

a storage coupled to said processor, said storage storing instructions that enable the processor to obtain Internet services through a service provider on behalf of a retail vendor; provide said services through graphical user interfaces provided by said service provider that include content related to products or services of said retail vendor; prevent accessing said Internet services from said service provider without receiving said content related to products or services of said retail vendor; and receive information about preferences and customize the content provided to the system based on said information.

- 22. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage further stores instructions that enable said system to obtain the identity of a customer using the system and customize the information provided to the customer based on the customer's identity.
- 23. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage further stores instructions that enable said system to control the initial graphical user interface displayed after booting said system.

1	24. The system of claim 23 wherein said storage
2	further stores instructions that enable said system to
3	control the initial two graphical user interfaces displayed
4	on said system after booting.

- 25. The system of claim 24 wherein said storage further stores instructions that enable said system to prevent the initial two graphical user interfaces from being changed.
 - 26. The system of claim 21 including an interface for coupling said system to a server over the Internet, and said storage further storing instructions that enable said system to receive said preferences, forward said preferences over the Internet to said server and receive customized content from said server over the Internet.
 - 27. The system of claim 21 including a unitary housing and a display, said display being mounted in said unitary housing, said unitary housing further storing said processor and said storage.
- 28. A method comprising:

 providing Internet services to a customer on

 behalf of a retail vendor through a client processor-based system;

5	providing graphical user interfaces that include
6	content related to products or services of said retail
7	vendor;
8	preventing the customer from accessing said
9	Internet services without receiving said content related to
10	products or services of said retail vendor;
11	receiving information about the customer's
12	preferences from the client processor-based system; and
13	customizing the content provided to the client
14	processor-based system based on said information.
1	29. The method of claim 28 including providing remote
2	maintenance for said client processor-based system.
	(1)
1	30. The method of claim 29 including controlling the
2	software and hardware added to said system remotely.
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1	31. An article comprising a medium storing
2	instructions that enable a server to:
3	provide Internet services to a client on behalf
4	of a retail vendor;
5	provide said services through graphical user
6	interfaces from said server that include content related to
7	products or services of said retail vendor;

8	prevent the client from accessing said Internet
9	services without receiving said content related to products
10	or services of said retail vendor; and
11	enable said server to receive customer preferences
12	from said client and customize content displayed on said
13	client based on said customer preferences.
1	32. The article of claim 31 further storing
2	instructions that enable the server to provide customized
3	advertising to said client based on preferences received
4	from said client.
1	3. A server connectable to a client, said server
2	comprising:
3	a processor
4	a storage dupled to said processor;
5	an interface to the Internet; and
6	instructions stored on said storage that enable
7	the server to provide Internet services to the client on
8	behalf of a retail vendor; provide said services through
9	graphical user interfaces from said server that include
10	content related to products or services of said retail
11	vendor; prevent the client from accessing said Internet
12	services without receiving said content related to products
13	or services of said retail vendor; and enable said server

to receive customer preferences from said client and

15	customize	the	content	displayed	9rl	said	client	based	on
16	said custo	omer	preferer	nces.					

- 34. The system of claim 33 wherein customized advertising is provided to said client based on the preferences received from said client.
- 35. The system of claim 34 including storing in said storage information about the activities undertaken by the customer on said client.